

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: Coretta Scott King, a beloved and highly influential leader throughout America and the world, tirelessly committed to social justice and peace, was born in Marian, Alabama, where she became valedictorian of her high school class, received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Antioch College, and studied concert singing at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music; and

WHEREAS: In 1955, Mrs. King entered the world stage as wife of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and as a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement; the couple traveled to Ghana in 1957 to celebrate its independence; to Mexico, where they honeymooned and first observed the wide gulf between abject poverty and extreme wealth; to India, where they journeyed to sites associated with Mahatma Ghandi; and, to Oslo, Norway, in 1964, where Dr. King accepted the Nobel Peace Prize; and

WHEREAS: Coretta Scott King, mother of four, devoted herself courageously and indefatigably to her family and to human dignity and justice for all; and

WHEREAS: Mrs. King met with public officials on behalf of the poor and unheard and served as liaison to organizations promoting peace and justice; and

WHEREAS: Following the death of her husband in 1968, Coretta Scott King carried his work forward, created the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the first institution built in memory of an African-American leader, and realized her goal of honoring her husband's birthday, January 15, as a national holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MIKE BEEBE, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim February 15, 2007, as

CORETTA SCOTT KING DAY

across the State of Arkansas, and I urge all my fellow citizens to join me in remembering and honoring this exceptional American, whose courage, compassion, humility, and humanity are an eternal gift to this country.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 14th day of February, in the year of our Lord 2007.

MIKE BEEBE, GOVERNOR

CHARLIE DANIELS, SECRETARY OF STATE